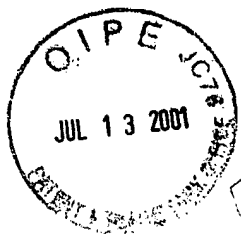


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Response Under 37 CFR § 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 3761

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicants:	Laura L. Elsberg et al.	Docket	15497
Serial No.:	09/465,853	Group:	3761
Filed:	December 17, 1999	Examiner:	J. Webb
For:	DISPOSABLE ABSORBENT ARTICLES HAVING A STRETCH PANEL AND AN INTEGRATED WAIST SIZE ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM	Date:	July 9, 2001

Amendment After Final Rejection Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Box AF
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and in response to the Final Office Action mailed May 11, 2001, Applicants hereby respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. A disposable absorbent article comprising an absorbent chassis which defines a front waist region, a rear waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, a pair of longitudinally opposed end edges, and a pair of laterally opposed side edges, said absorbent article further comprising:

- a) at least one fit panel which is located in one of said waist regions of said absorbent chassis and which defines a waist edge, a pair of laterally opposed outboard edges which are located laterally beyond said side edges of said absorbent chassis, and an inward edge which is located longitudinally inward from said waist edge, wherein said fit panel is configured to provide a conforming fit about a wearer's waist;
- b) a pair of primary fasteners which are located on said laterally opposed outboard edges of said fit panel and which are configured to releasably engage an opposite waist region

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